

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OES-07 FEA-01 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSC-01
/075 W

-----072025Z 099952 /63

R 071616Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3717
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL
ALL OTHER CANADIAN POSTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 04712

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, CA
SUBJECT: PETER TOWE NAMED CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON

1. ON JUNE 3 THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE ANNOUNCED THAT PETER TOWE, A CAREER DIPLOMAT, HAD BEEN NAMED TO REPLACE JAKE WARREN AS CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. BORN IN LONDON, ONTARIO ON NOVEMBER 1, 1922, TOWE STUDIED ECONOMICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO AND QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY. HE JOINED THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS IN 1946 AND SUBSEQUENTLY SERVED IN WASHINGTON, BONN, BEIRUT AND PARIS. FROM 1962-67 HE WAS DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE EXTERNAL AID OFFICE (NOW CALLED THE CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY). HE WAS MINISTER AT THE CANADIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON DURING 1967-72, AND CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE OECD 1972-75. SINCE SEPTEMBER 1975 HE HAS BEEN ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR ECONOMIC MATTERS.

2. COMMENT: TOWE KNOWS WASHINGTON WELL AND IS THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH CURRENT U.S./CANADIAN BILATERAL ECONOMIC
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ISSUES AS WELL AS WITH MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN. HE APPEARS WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE UNITED STATES AND IS ON VERY FRIENDLY TERMS WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS IN OTTAWA.

3. TOWE HAS A CONGENIAL, EASY-GOING PERSONALITY, AND TENDS TO BE RATHER BLAND. HIS APPROACH TO PROBLEMS IS

LOW KEY IN MANNER, TO THE DEGREE THAT HE HAS OCCASIONALLY SURPRISED US WITH AN OVERLY CASUAL REACTION TO SERIOUS ISSUES. SOME HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THIS BEHAVIOR REFLECTS A STREAK OF LAZINESS.

4. TOWE CAN BE EXPECTED TO ARTICULATE CANADIAN POSITIONS EFFECTIVELY, BUT WITHOUT THE VIGOR OR CONVICTION WHICH CHARACTERIZED JAKE WARREN'S STYLE. BY THE SAME TOKEN, TOWE WILL PROBABLY NOT ATTEMPT THE PUBLIC SPEAKING OR PUBLIC PROMINENCE WHICH WARREN ACHIEVED. IT MAY BE THE GOC HAS CONCLUDED THAT THE KEY ISSUES OF THE EVOLVING AGENDA (GAS PIPELINE, BOUNDARIES, FISHERIES) CAN BEST BE HANDLED BY QUIET DIPLOMACY. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977OTTAWA04712
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Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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Film Number: D770203-0057
Format: TEL
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770683/aaaacupk.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
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Review Date: 27-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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TAGS: PINR, CA, US, (TOWE, PETER)
To: STATE
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